

TRIBUTE TO NICK WALTERS

• Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to take a moment and wish best of luck to an accomplished, young and promising Mississippian who is leaving federal service to pursue private sector opportunities.

Nick Walters, originally of Wiggins, MS, was appointed as Mississippi's USDA Rural Development Director by President George Bush in 2001. Since then, Nick has done a great job supporting Mississippi's communities, helping to secure resources needed for public facilities, utilities, and for economic development.

This is a key Federal position for my State. As Nick likes to say, this is the "nonfarm," or "nonfood" part of USDA. It is about new water and waste water systems, so people can have clean, dependable running water. It is about new community centers, town halls, and even high-tech or educational assets like broadband service, telemedicine and long-distance learning.

Since taking office, Nick has presented scores of oversized checks, in countless, photos for local papers telling stories about a new water tower or a new police car or fire truck.

Some people might think these things are small, and they often are in terms of Federal dollars. But these modest services will reverberate for years to come. As Nick says: USDA Rural Development is really about economic development, helping to encourage and sustain job creation—paving the way for communities to grow.

Nick has helped administer more than \$100 million to Mississippi's cities and towns through this agency.

He hasn't sat on his laurels waiting for mayors, supervisors, town alderman or CEOs to approach him. Nick has been proactive, innovative, and he has actively sought cases and ways to meet individual community needs through USDA's various Rural Development Programs.

We've all heard the old saying: Don't tell me what you can't do, tell me what you can do. That has been Nick Walters' approach to public service. His first inclination is to act.

That is something we Mississippians appreciate. After Hurricane Katrina, we saw many Federal bureaucrats in FEMA and elsewhere strapped by indecision, blinded by tunnel vision, stuck on what they could not do, obsessed with the word "no," when they should have been saying "yes."

Nick isn't that type. He has provided a great example of what someone in this office can do using its authority to the utmost, and we are working hard to find a successor who will continue this strong leadership.

Nick Walters will be missed, but my guess is that he will be back in public service one day. In what capacity? I don't know. That's a decision for him, his wife Lisa and his young children, Porter and John Garrett.

But now with this success behind him and given his previous experience in

the private sector, his work with former Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice, his stint as chief of staff for the Mississippi Public Service Commission—Nick Walters will be successful in wherever his endeavors may lead.

I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Nick Walters for his exemplary service to the Federal Government and, more importantly, to America as Mississippi's USDA rural development director.●

TRIBUTE TO BRAD EXTON

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Brad Exton, an individual with a long and outstanding record as member of the U.S. Forest Service. Over the course of his 29 years in the Forest Service, Mr. Exton has held many demanding posts, including deputy forest supervisor and acting forest supervisor of the Black Hills National Forest, BHNF, in South Dakota. He has also been instrumental in helping the Forest Service improve relations with Native American tribes, and helped to create a closer relationship between the Forest Service, National Park Service, and the State park system.

Before his tenure in South Dakota, Mr. Exton served in several States and numerous positions within the Forest Service. He was a graduate forester in Oregon; a river ranger in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho; a district ranger in Caribou-Targhee National Forest, encompassing 3 million acres in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Utah; and a recreation staff officer in the Ashley National Forest in Utah. He brought this wealth of experience with him to BHNF in April of 2003.

As deputy forest supervisor and acting forest supervisor at BHNF, Mr. Exton took a leadership role in confronting some of the most difficult challenges facing the organization. For example, Mr. Exton was a BHNF spokesman and negotiator on issues of concern to Indian tribes. The Black Hills area is sacred land to 22 tribes, including the Lakota people, and there has often been tension with the Forest Service over the role of the tribes in land management and usage. Through meetings and the formation of an advisory group, Mr. Exton has partnered with tribal members to seek a more active role for the tribes in maintaining healthy forests and creating an atmosphere of respect for indigenous cultures and knowledge. His commitment was reflected in 2005, when he was awarded a Regional Forester Honor Award for his work with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in developing a program of fuel reduction.

While it is unfortunate for BHNF to lose a valuable public servant such as Mr. Exton, I am confident he will thrive in his new position as manager of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah. I wish to congratulate Mr. Exton on this excit-

ing new opportunity, and wish him all the best. The cooperation and respect Mr. Exton has fostered in South Dakota will remain as a worthy legacy.●

HONORING RUDY GARCIA

• Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the memory of Rudolph "Rudy" Garcia, a quintessential entrepreneur and fixture in the St. Paul community, who passed away on August 27, 2006, at the age of 61. As Rudy's close friends have noted: "He truly personified the American Dream." Having grown up in an orphanage without any formation education, Rudy decided at an early age to chase his dream of owning and operating his own restaurant a dream that went hand in hand with his great love of cooking.

At the age of 21, he opened his first establishment, Garcia's Casita on the West Side of the city, becoming St. Paul's first Latino businessowner. Through a combination of Rudy's personality and commonsense business practices, he was able to grow Garcia's Casita into a string of six different St. Paul eating establishments during the 1990s. From steakhouses to nightclubs, Rudy's perseverance continually led him to success even in the face of several failures and a St. Paul that was still on the edge of revitalization.

Rick Aguilar, a St. Paul businessman and longtime friend, described Rudy as "a man with a million ideas" whose energy helped him roll with the punches and make his dreams a reality. Rudy continued to stay the course as both he and St. Paul grew alongside each other through the years. In 1994, while serving as the mayor of St. Paul, I had the distinct privilege of proclaiming a day in his honor. While the St. Paul community mourns Rudy's passing, we can't help but celebrate his life that should serve as a model for not only Latinos, but all Americans who are looking to make their dreams a reality.

The St. Paul area and I will sincerely miss Garcia's great commitment to our community. Whether it was his work in the restaurant business or his participation in the early 1960s band the Jaymars a popular area band that played a mix of jazz, rock 'n' roll and blues—Garcia's impact on St. Paul is immeasurable.●

TRIBUTE TO LYN MCCLELLAND

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Lyn McClelland, a highly respected leader in the maritime community, who is retiring this month after 21 years of service as the Maritime Administration's Seattle representative. Lyn has helped support the success, safety, and security of the U.S. maritime community in the Pacific Northwest.

Over the years, we have turned to Lyn time and again for her expertise, her judgment, and her ability to come

up with practical solutions. If there is a challenge in the maritime community, you can bet that Lyn's worked to solve it.

I am especially proud of Lyn's work on critical security programs, which as my colleagues know is an area of special interest for me. I was so pleased that Lyn worked on Operation Safe Commerce, which I helped create here in the Senate. She has worked on the STEP program Seattle/Tacoma/Everett Port Security Program, and the Washington State Transportation Research Center electronic seal test. She's been a key player on three Area Maritime Security Committees Alaska, Washington, and Oregon, and Lyn partnered with the Coast Guard on a number of maritime security programs including reviewing applications for port security grants. Lyn's work also helped ensure the development, availability and security of military out-load ports in support of our men and women engaged in hostilities overseas.

Lyn's contributions were not limited to port security. She has also been a major supporter of the development of the Marine Transportation System, the U.S. Merchant Marine, and she has always been involved in encouraging young people to pursue careers in the maritime industry. Her support of the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee spurred the adoption of new safety measures for vessel and waterfront facility operation. Lyn's eager participation in a wide array of maritime events and celebrations helped make them successful.

Lyn has been a stalwart leader and mainstay of the Pacific Northwest maritime industry, and she has strengthened the relationship between industry and government. As other leaders came and went, we could always rely on the energy, knowledge, dedication, and professionalism of Lyn McClelland for any challenge. I want to wish her "fair winds and following seas" in her well-deserved retirement. She will be greatly missed. Lyn may be leaving her job, but she is leaving all of us with a tremendous legacy of service and success. Congratulations, Lyn.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the presiding officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2005, the Secretary of the Senate, on August 4, 2006, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS) has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 4. An act to provide economic security for all Americans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4646. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7320 Reseda Boulevard in Reseda, California, as the "Coach John Wooden Post Office Building".

H.R. 4811. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 215 West Industrial Park Road in Harrison, Arkansas, as the "John Paul Hamerschmidt Post Office Building".

H.R. 4962. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Pitcher Street in Utica, New York, as the "Captain George A. Wood Post Office Building".

H.R. 5104. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 16th Street South in St. Petersburg, Florida, as the "Morris W. Milton Post Office".

H.R. 5107. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1400 West Jordan Street in Pensacola, Florida, as the "Earl D. Hutto Post Office Building".

H.R. 5169. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1310 Highway 64 NW. in Ramsey, Indiana, as the "Wilfred Edward 'Cousin Willie' Sieg, Sr. Post Office".

H.R. 5540. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 217 Southeast 2nd Street in Dimmitt, Texas, as the "Sergeant Jacob Dan Dones Post Office".

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2005, the enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Vice President during the adjournment of the Senate, on August 14, 2006.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4157. To promote a better health information system.

H.R. 4761. An act to provide for exploration, development, and production activities for mineral resources on the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4890. To amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for the expedited consideration of certain proposed rescissions of budget authority.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—AUGUST 3, 2006

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 4157. To promote a better health information system.

H.R. 4761. To provide for exploration, development, and production activities for

mineral resources on the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4890. To amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for the expedited consideration of certain proposed rescissions of budget authority.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7862. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to conducting a standard competition of the base support, vehicle operations, and equipment functions performed by Department of the Navy civilian personnel for possible performance by private contractor; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7863. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Defense Stockpile (NDS) Annual Materials Plan (AMP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007; also included are AMPs for Fiscal Years 2008 through 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7864. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 06-186-06-195); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7865. A communication from the Secretary of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the military, diplomatic, political, and economic measures that have been or are being taken to successfully complete the mission in Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7866. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) technical assistance to Iran during 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7867. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the U.S. military personnel and civilian contractors involved in the anti-narcotics campaign in Colombia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7868. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the effectiveness of United Nations efforts to prevent sexual exploitation, abuse, and trafficking; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7869. A communication from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-7870. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of the Chief Acquisition Officer, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-12" (FAC 2005-12) received on August 18, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7871. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Auditor's